

Brookline Preservation Commission

Demolition Application Report

Address: 87 Colchester Street

Petitioner: Rachel & Glen Goldman

Type of Building(s): Garage- built 1935 Brooks-Skinner with stucco parapet

National Register Listing (if Applicable): Longwood



Preliminary Findings of Historical/Architectural Significance

The house was built in 1913, designed by Louis Rice Goulding for John C Lathrop, born about 1871 in Michigan, to Orvis and Laura Lathrop. Lathrop was a member of The First Church of Christ, Scientist. His mother Laura Lathrop, along with Augusta Stetson, founded The First Church of Christ, Scientist in New York City in 1886 (eight years after Mary Baker Eddy founded the Church in Boston). In 1891, Stetson and Lathrop broke off their relations, and Lathrop founded the Second Church of Christ, Scientist, in New York. By 1911, John and his mother had moved to Boston, first living on Commonwealth Avenue, then moving into the house on Colchester Street around 1913. The architect of the house appears to have been a member of the Church. The 1920 Census lists the occupants of 87 Colchester as John C. Lathrop, lecturer Christian Science, Laura Lathrop (mother), Alda Vandergriff (boarder), practitioner, Christian Science and 2 servants.

John had lived with his mother in New York City. He also was a student of Eddy's Metaphysical College in 1881 and helped Mary Baker Eddy at her home in Pleasant View, N.H., for 18 months. By 1911, when he moved to Boston, he was a First Reader at the Church; he was also a practitioner and writer of sermons and books. In 1920, he went to Great Britain and Ireland under the auspices of the Church to deliver lectures.

By the 1930 Census, he had married.

87 Colchester Street

The metal Brooks-Skinner garage was built in 1935. It is not clear when or who added the thin stucco arched connector and parapet with red tile roofing.





The garage at 87 Colchester Street meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

a. The building is listed or is within an area listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places;

The garage retains its integrity in terms of its location setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.